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COUNTRY Colombia

SUBJECT Increasing Communist Influence in  
25X1A Liberal Newspaper JornadaPLACE  
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1. According to Ruben Uribe Arcila, leader of the Liberal Party and director and manager of Jornada, Dario Samper and Jorge Villaveces, in agreement with the Movimiento Popular (MP-section of the Liberal Party influenced by Gaitan), have decided to give the newspaper an even more leftist character than it has previously shown in order to appeal to the working classes.
2. Dario Mesa, a Communist, will reportedly be employed to translate material received from Communist sources, such as the Soviet Embassies in Mexico and Venezuela. Dario Samper's law partner, Jorge Regueros Peralta, who is also a prominent Communist, has for some time provided Jornada with news bulletins from the Jewish news agency, Eres News, for publishing which Jornada is paid. Through this service Regueros has gradually been able to introduce articles of a Communist tinge.
3. Since his return from the Warsaw peace congress, Jesus Villagas Palacio, a Communist, has recommended a press campaign specifically directed against foreign companies in Colombia engaged in the petroleum, metallurgy, and food-processing industries. He stated that this campaign should be carried out through the established Conservative or Liberal newspapers, rather than in Party publications.
4. The fact that Jornada is openly anti-Communist has caused the Communists to regard it as a very effective vehicle for their propaganda. (The following statement appeared in a summary of the MP's program on page four of the 22 January 1951 issue: "The Movimiento Popular is completely opposed to the doctrines and the programs of international Communism, but it repudiates the anti-Communist campaign which has been used by rightist and reactionary forces against democratic and popular movements of the continent.") The Communists have made a definite effort to influence the newspaper and have succeeded in having some frankly Communist articles published. In the 22 January 1951 issue there was also an article called "Yanquilandia", written by Oscar Serna Alvarez, a Communist sympathizer, which attacks the American companies in the mining region of the Department of Choco. Some of the other headlines emphasize the disruption of anti-Communist labor unity in America (referring to the recent labor congress in Mexico City), Russian homage to Lenin on the anniversary of his death, the activity of Red aviation in Korea, and the brilliant Communist strategy of Lin Piao in China.

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